Benny and Omar

By: Cooper Gray

Benny and Omar is about a young Irish boy who has a love for hurling (A sport played in Ireland). But then his dad gets a promotion in his job and the family has to move to Tunisia, Africa. Benny has an important game a month after they leave so he is VERY upset. When Benny gets to Tunisia he is set in a place with other families in the same situation. While Benny is moping around the camp he meets a caring Tunisian boy who is nice at heart but has to steal and loot to stay alive. Soon they become good friends and Omar tells him about his weak sister that had been kidnapped by some criminals in the city. The next time Benny sees Omar he has stolen his sister back. The people he took her from are looking for him. The guards of the place that Benny lives also want to capture him. Benny, Omar and Omar’s sister slip away on Omar’s moped, but they fall off and Omar dies. Omar’s sister is adopted by a nice family and Benny learns to be a nicer person at heart thanks to Omar.

I would give this book a rating of 3/10. I did not like this book for a lot of reasons. I thought that the author did not explain what was going on in the book well enough. For example, at the end it never specifies whether Benny and Omar’s sister stay in contact. There were a lot of Irish words that I did not understand. Like “eejit” or “sliotar”. These words are not defined and it makes it hard on the reader. I did not like the main character at all. I thought he was stuck up, snobby, and full of himself. Also, I thought the book was hard to follow. The main character would constantly talk about something of the sport Hurling and I had no clue what he was talking about.

I liked the ending for two reasons. First, was when Benny found out that Omar’s sister ended up in a good home and was getting better and better every day. It made me think about my sisters and how I want them to be happy. And the second reason I liked the ending was that the book was over (Yes, I really did not like it that much).

This book was like a rollercoaster. It went up and down from intense action to not much happening at all. If you like books that keep you guessing like a mystery book; or a book that keeps you on the edge of your seat like a horror book; this may not be your type of book. If you like a book where you might break down a few times or a book that will raise your excitement for a little bit this is the book for you. I consider this book as a ride filled with heartbreak, heartache, and side ache because it has some funny parts to it along with some sad parts. In my opinion Benny and Omar was a decent book, but did not make me want to read more of this story.